

We claim as our invention:

1. A method comprising:

selecting, via a user interface on a given device, a machine vision tool, the user interface being presented by a web browser;

selecting, via the user interface of the web browser, training information to be used for training;

sending the selected training information to a machine vision tool device including the machine vision tool; and

commanding the machine vision tool device from the web browser to train the machine vision tool using the selected training information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting of the training information includes entering training parameters.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, using the web browser, an imaging device;

commanding, using the web browser, an image acquiring device connected to the imaging device to acquire an image and to send the image to the machine vision tool device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the training information comprises:

selecting, using the web browser, an image acquiring device to acquire an image of an object, the image acquiring device being connected to an imaging device; and

acquiring the image using the image acquiring device and sending the image to the imaging device.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

- sending the image from the imaging device to the machine vision tool device;
- sending the image from machine vision tool device to the given device including the web browser;
- displaying the image on a display device of the given device; and
- selecting a region of interest of the image via the user interface of the web browser and sending corresponding selected region of interest information to the machine vision tool device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the machine vision tool device and the given device including the web browser are a same device.

7. A method comprising:

- selecting, via a user interface of a given device including a web browser, a machine vision tool;
- entering, via the web browser, training information to be used for training the machine vision tool;
- sending the training information to a machine vision tool device, the machine vision tool device including the machine vision tool; and
- commanding the machine vision tool device from the web browser to train the machine vision tool using the training information.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the training information includes an outline drawn on a screen of a video display device using a pointing device.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the training information comprises:
entering, via the web browser, an indicator of a file including the training information;
and
sending the file to the machine vision tool device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the file is a DXF file and the training information
is AutoCAD data.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
producing, via the machine vision device, a trained model based on the training
information; and
storing the trained model.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the trained model is stored in a storage device
associated with the given device including the web browser.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the trained image is stored in a storage device
on the machine vision tool device.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
producing, via the machine vision tool, a trained model based on the training
information; and
storing the trained model.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the trained model is stored in a storage device associated with the given device including the web browser.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the trained model is stored in a storage device associated with the machine vision tool device.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising entering at least one parameter, via the web browser, to send to the machine vision tool device before commanding, via the web browser, the machine vision tool device to execute the machine vision tool.

18. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
periodically receiving, on the given device including the web browser, an updated image originating from the image acquiring device; and
displaying the updated image via the web browser to produce a live display of the image.

19. A method comprising:
selecting, using a user interface of a web browser included in a given device, parameters for running a machine vision tool;
selecting, using the user interface of the web browser, a machine vision tool;
causing, using the web browser, the machine vision tool to be executed, the machine vision tool using the selected parameters; and
sending results of the executed machine vision tool to the given device including the web browser.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

displaying, using a display device associated with the given device, the results of the machine vision tool, the displaying being performed via the web browser.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the parameters specify one of an image acquired by an image acquiring device and a file in a database.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the parameters are received from a location selected via the web browser.

23. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

entering, using the web browser, at least one parameter to be passed to a machine vision tool device including the machine vision tool; and
passing the at least one parameter to the machine vision tool device.

24. An apparatus comprising:

a machine vision tool device including a machine vision tool, the machine vision tool device being configured to communicate with a given device including a web browser, the machine vision tool device further including a receiving portion to receive an identifier of the machine vision tool from the web browser.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the machine vision tool device further comprises:

a presentation portion to prepare at least one presentation display to send to the web browser, the at least one presentation display being based on results of executing the machine vision tool; and

a sending portion to send the at least one presentation display to the web browser.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the presentation portion is configured to receive output from the machine vision tool and to place the output in a form of the at least one presentation display to display via the web browser.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:

the presentation portion is configured to produce the at least one presentation display including commands for displaying the at least one presentation display via the web browser.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the commands for displaying the at least one presentation display include one of HTML and XML.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the commands for displaying the at least one presentation display include a program to be executed by the given device.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the program is a Java applet.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the commands include Java script.

32. A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for a device including a machine vision tool, said program comprising:

preparing at least one presentation display to send to a given device including a web browser;

receiving an identifier of the machine vision tool from the given device including the web browser via the web browser; and

executing the machine vision tool.

33. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the program further comprises:

receiving output from the machine vision tool and placing the output in a form of the at least one presentation display for displaying via the web browser; and

sending the at least one presentation display, including the output of the machine vision tool, to the given device including the web browser.

34. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the prepared at least one presentation display includes commands for displaying the at least one presentation display using the web browser.

35. The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the commands for displaying the at least one presentation display include one of HTML commands and XML commands.

36. The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the commands for displaying the at least one presentation display include a program to be executed by the web browser.

37. The machine-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the program is a Java applet.
38. The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the commands include Java script.
39. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selecting one of a plurality of devices, each having at least one machine vision tool.
40. The method of claim 1, wherein the given device and the machine vision tool device are different devices located remotely from each other.
41. The method of claim 3, wherein the imaging device is separate from the given device and the machine vision tool device.
42. The method of claim 40, wherein the given device and the machine vision tool device are connected via at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, and an internet.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein the given device and the machine vision tool device are in different buildings.